

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
Response to Public Review

The Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) received public comments on the draft **Mountain Lion Hunt Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determination** concerning the addition of Kofa NWR to an existing limited mountain lion hunt in southwest Arizona during the 2007/2008 hunt season. Thank you for your interest and ideas on the proposal. All comments will be considered in the preparation of the final documents.

A judge's recent decision in a lawsuit, Fund for Animals *et al.* vs. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation *et al.*, [Civil Action No. 03-0677 (RMU)] has affected the completion of these documents by requiring the Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a cumulative impacts analysis on all new hunt openings and hunt expansions.

The completion of the Mountain Lion Hunt Plan, Environmental Assessment, and Compatibility Determination has been postponed until the National Wildlife Refuge System prepares guidance on the required analysis of cumulative impacts as ordered by the court. We appreciate your continuing interest in the Kofa NWR and the management of your National Wildlife Refuge System. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

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